

IDOC Holds 2009 Statewide Trainers' Conference "Focus on the Field"

New Castle, Indiana (October 27, 2009) - The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) hosted the 2009 Statewide Trainers' Conference October 13-16 for IDOC training staff. The theme of the conference was "Focus on the Field."

Richard L. Curry, Jr., the IDOC's Executive Director of Staff Development Emergency Operations, delivered the opening address. Director Curry challenged training staff with the question, "Why training?" Mr. Curry further challenged trainers to "focus on the field" while exploring contemporary and future challenges that trainers will be facing in the ever-changing climate of corrections.

Dan Ronay, IDOC's Chief of Staff, addressed the conference outlining the "Strategic Plan: Moving Forward." Chief Ronay asked training staff, "What can we do better?," individually challenging training staff to further develop their skills while providing and improving effective and efficient services to agency staff, offenders, and to the communities in Indiana's 92 counties.

Over sixty trainers attended the events, interactive teambuilding exercises, and networking opportunities. Trainers explored contemporary and cutting edge breakout sessions, such as developing action plans, program coordination, effective management skills, effective problem solving skills, how to demonstrate flexibility in a changing environment, and how to incorporate technology into a PowerPoint presentation.



Kris Main, Logansport Juvenile, receives Rising Star of Year from Lori Harshbarger, Superintendent, LJCF.



Anthony Thomas (right), Westville, received Trainer of the Year with Eric Comeno (left), Regional Training Manager.



Nick Eblen and Kelly Bennett, Rockville Correctional Facility, receive Training Facility of Year with Superintendent Julie Stout and Rockville PIO Pam Ferguson.

The conference concluded with an awards banquet to recognize the leading trainers in the Department. The trainers were joined by members of the IDOC's leadership team, Commissioner Edwin G. Buss and Deputy Commissioner of Operations Stan Knight.

Commissioner Buss acknowledged and thanked the trainers for their continued diligence and efforts in developing and providing training to the Department's staff, contract staff, volunteers and other agency staff statewide. Trainers joined in thanking and presenting Commissioner Buss with an award for his continued leadership and support during an era of challenging diversity in corrections.

Award-winning trainers included:

- Sgt. Darrell Brown, Indiana State Prison, received the Adjunct Trainer of the Year award for his outstanding performance and diligence.
- Kris Main, Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility, was acknowledged and recognized with the Rising Star of the Year award.
- Anthony Thomas, Westville Correctional Facility, received the Correctional Trainer of the Year award.
- Mike Arthur, Plainfield Correctional Facility, and Gordon Neeley, Putnamville Correctional Facility, were named Co-Correctional Supervisor of the Year.
- Rockville Correctional Facility was recipient of the Training Facility of the Year.
- Kris Pew, Correctional Training Institute, received the Staff Development Emergency Operations Director of the Year award for her excellence in computer-based training (CBT) development and technical expertise.

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